



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 23, 1996

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Site Inspection, Uintah County Commission, Asphalt Ridge Mine, M/047/022;
and Buena Ventura Resources Corporation (BVRC), AROC #1 Mine,
M/047/032, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 16, 1996
Time of Inspection: 1030 - 1210
Conditions: Windy
Participants: Lonnie Hogan, Dennis Ingram, Uintah County; Tom Bachtell, Larry Allred, Scott Allred, Buena Ventura Resources Corporation; Lowell Braxton, Wayne Hedberg, Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection To examine the current status of both the Asphalt Ridge and AROC operations and also examine the areas to be included in the proposed large mine.

The inspection began with a brief description by Lonnie Hogan and Dennis Ingram of the Uintah County operations. During this inspection, the County operations were using a D-10 bulldozer to rip the cap rock on the knob area which was recently amended to the permit. This knob area is located north of the older pit. The knob is also higher in elevation which makes it more visible from the Vernal town area. Previously the County had been drilling and blasting the cap rock to remove it as overburden.

The County commissioners and BVRC (Tom Bachtell) are currently working out an agreement between the County and BVRC where the County will continue to mine as much as 30,000 tons per day of asphalt from property controlled by BVRC. The proposal would allow Uintah County to strip off the overburden on BVRC's property to the south of the existing pit and continue to mine asphalt at that rate until BVRC's large mine plan is approved and their plant is fully operational.



Page 2
Site Inspection
Uintah County & BVRC
May 23, 1996

The next part of the inspection was an overview of the BVRC operations. Larry Allred and Thomas Bachtell explained that the BVRC proposal will have a strip ratio of 1:5 -1. The ridge immediately adjacent and south of the BVRC site is where the expansion will primarily take place.

We then walked to the top of the ridge area for an overview of both the County's operations and BVRC's operation. From this knob, several photographs were taken to document the current status of the site. The Uintah County operations on the area that was recently amended, that is the knob, will most likely excavate the knob area down to the level of the existing pit. This knob area has been drilled down at least 75' before the drill stem was stuck. The D-10 dozer, currently being used to rip the overburden, was rented on a trial basis to see if this would be effective for the County, as far as stripping. The results of this experiment would then be applied to stripping overburden at the new area that Buena Ventura would be using.

Another reason for this inspection was due to some citizen complaints over safety issues and also annoyance from this site. The knob area currently being stripped by the County is visible from a long distance because of the elevation. Also because the black deposit material contrasts with the lighter colored native rock. In addition, the County has had to blast the cap rock on occasion, or they chose to blast the cap rock. Especially one year ago when they used a majority of the rock for riprap and flood control.

Other issues of concern were dust and controlled access to the site. During this inspection, the haul road up to the knob area was considerably dusty. A water truck was not seen until sometime later in the afternoon when the County pulled it off from another job.

The access issue consists of the lack of security fencing or controlled access up to the mine site. The proximity of the housing area and the possibility of small children being able to wander on site may require some additional fencing or security measures.

jb
cc: Tom Bachtell, BVRC
Lonnie Hogan, Uintah County
BVRC&CO.ins